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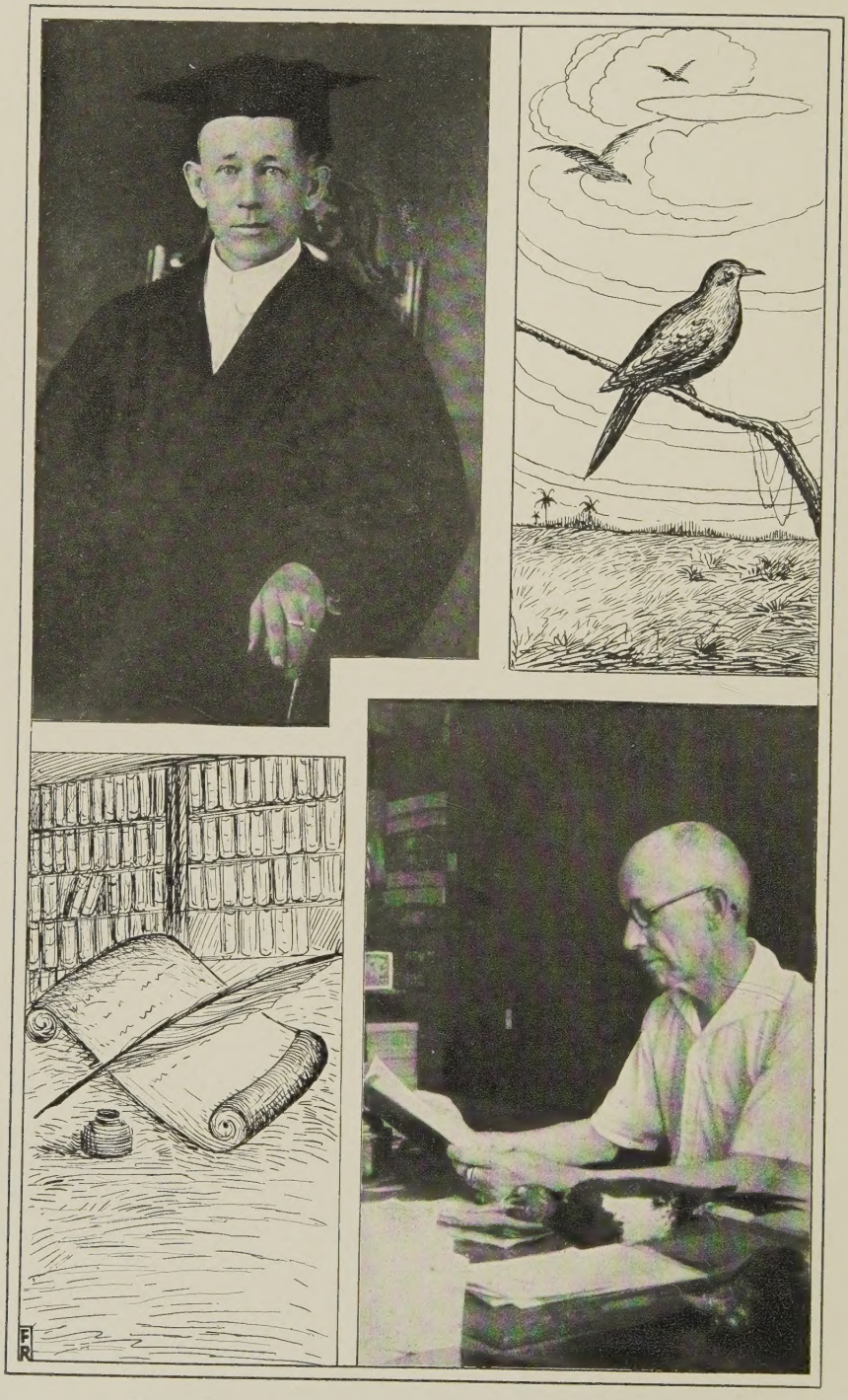

RICHARD CRITTENDEN MCGREGOR, 1871–1936

# A Tribute

RICHARD C. McGREGOR came to the Philippines as a young man in the early years of the American régime over thirty years ago. He belonged to that small group of American scientists who came as pioneers in a tropical land so rich in flora and fauna. By dint of hard work and persistent effort, together with unbounded enthusiasm as a naturalist, he accumulated valuable data and knowledge on Philippine birds. After a career of three decades he became recognized as the foremost authority on ornithology in this part of the world. In those early years Filipino scientists were small in number and limited in experience. Now he leaves behind him a large group of Filipino scientists with broad experience who have been his colleagues at one time or another. McGregor has been characterized as an efficient public servant and as scientist of a high order. His passing is a loss to the scientific work in the Islands, and he is mourned by his colleagues as a sincere and devoted friend.

A. S. ARGUELLES
Director, Bureau of Science



6495

# RICHARD C. McGREGOR, THE JOURNALIST

[Address delivered at the Necrological Service, January 12, 1937]

By EDUARDO R. ALVARADO

*Assistant Chief, Publications Division, Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Manila*

We are gathered here today, bowed in sorrow, to pay our last homage to Richard C. McGregor, the scientist and journalist.

I had the privilege of working with him for the last four years, and during this intimate association I have come to realize that a man can be great without the pomposity and popular acclaim that generally accompany modern greatness. For McGregor was great in his own modest and unobtrusive way. His greatness lies in the fact that he devoted the last half of his life to a field of human endeavor not appreciated and almost unknown in this country—scientific journalism; yet, without aiming at fame, through painstaking effort, assiduity, his love of the work itself, and in spite of the physical handicaps with which he was afflicted during the last years of his life, he was rated, by common accord among scientists, as the foremost scientific journalist in the Philippines, and one of the most renowned in the world.

He set a high standard for Philippine scientific literature, thus establishing the Philippine reputation for research and investigation throughout the scientific world. The PHILIPPINE JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, of which he was the managing editor during the last thirty years, takes its place among the best scientific periodical literature of the world, and constitutes in itself a monument to his devotion to his work. Every page of the Journal of Science bears the stamp of McGregorian simplicity, thoroughness, scientific accuracy, and painstaking labor.

His devotion to duty, which was an obsession to him; his thoroughness in the performance of his

work; his human understanding in dealing with his co-workers; his keen sense of modesty; his sincerity and honesty of purpose; and his serenity, fortitude, and sense of humor in adversity—these are priceless traditions that McGregor left to those who will carry on his work.

In his lifetime he daily devoted fourteen hours to his work; and in 1934, when he was laid up for over five months, he worked on his bed in the hospital. Even in his last hours, his work was uppermost in his mind. Twenty-four hours before he died he sent me word that he would be back to the office the following day.

In editing scientific papers he was punctiliously and scrupulously thorough to the last detail—no slip-shod methods for him. No error was too trivial to receive his careful attention. I have known him to spend hours and hours consulting reference books and previous works just to check a short statement of fact. To him a mistake was a mistake, and no careful editor should pass it over without having done everything possible to have it corrected. His favorite remark was, "I would rather have the JOURNAL OF SCIENCE come out a few days or a week late without any mistake than to have it come out on time full of mistakes. In the first case, a high standard of dependability is maintained; in the latter case, mistakes and misinformation are perpetuated."

His kindliness and his human understanding of the point of view, even the shortcomings, of the other fellow, will indeed be missed by his co-workers. In the Department of Agriculture and Commerce Publications Division, of which he was the chief, he was never known to treat his subordinates with condescension, nor did he exercise the stern and rigid authority that a superior usually exercises over subordinates. He considered his subordinates as his collaborators. The atmosphere of cheerfulness, friendliness, and coöperation radiating from the Chief pervaded the whole office personnel. Thus he was loved and respected by every employee.

I have yet to meet a man who is as modest and simple as McGregor was. Very few knew that he corresponded with famous men in different countries, among whom are renowned ornithologists, entomologists, scientific workers in all fields, as well as scientific publishers and editors. King Leopold of Belgium and former Governor-General Theodore Roosevelt were among his numerous friends abroad. He never took advantage of these influential connections to project himself to importance and fame in the columns of the daily press.

In this age, when it is the fashion in all countries and in all climes to go after public offices of honor irrespective of the necessary qualifications therefor, it is edifying and inspiring to turn a leaf in the life of McGregor, and learn a lesson in honesty to oneself and to the community. I have it on good authority that in the early days of the American régime he was offered high executive positions in the Government. In every case he declined the tender of appointments. When, in one of our daily chats of sundry things, I asked him why he did not accept these offers, he told me, dismissing the matter as trivial, that there were others who, in his opinion, were better qualified and had the necessary prestige for the positions, and that he was more useful to the Government as editor of the JOURNAL OF SCIENCE than as Bureau Director. What a precious lesson in self-evaluation!

Since his confinement in the hospital in 1934, McGregor had been a sick and suffering man. But never was he heard to complain of his sufferings nor of his physical invalidism which resulted from his illness. He was cheerful as usual. While a man of ordinary moral fiber would have despaired and brooded over his sufferings and physical invalidism, McGregor bore his ailments and handicaps with manly serenity and fortitude, immersing himself in his work with assiduous intensity. Not only this, but his sense of humor never dimmed in his hours of suffering. Late in 1935, when his ailment recurred and he had to be taken again to the hospital, he wrote me a note saying, "The old machine is creaky

again and had to be taken to the shop. As soon as it is properly overhauled and oiled it will be back on the job."

Thus lived a simple, kind-hearted, and hardworking honest man. Whatever we say here as a tribute to his memory will not add to the luster of the work, the example he set us, and the tradition he left behind him. Our feeble attempt to give a portrayal of his virtues may be likened to a futile attempt to add, with the dim light of a candle, to the brilliance of daylight.

May Richard C. McGregor join his virtuous kind in the presence of the Greatest Scientist—his Maker.

# RICHARD CRITTENDEN McGREGOR, THE NATURALIST

[Address delivered at the Necrological Service, January 12, 1937]

BY CANUTO G. MANUEL

*Assistant Ornithologist, Bureau of Science, Manila*

Richard Crittenden McGregor was born in Sydney, Australia, on February 24, 1871, and died at the Manila Sanatorium December 30, 1936, of pernicious anemia, after an illness of about two years.

Already in his early days McGregor had manifest interest in natural history. His early observation on birds are recorded in THE AUK.

After graduating from Stanford University in 1898, McGregor set out with an expedition to Panama. Later, he joined the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. It was during this period that he came to the Philippines—the land he adopted and the country that loved him. He accepted a position with the Philippine Government in 1901 and worked here continuously and faithfully until his death. Apparently, his motto was "Live to Work." His only avocation was collecting stamps.

With McGregor's long and varied experience, and the faithfulness with which he carried out any task assigned to him, he made a name both for himself and for the institution with which he worked. During the many years he served as ornithologist of the Bureau of Science he acquired an international reputation as the foremost authority on Philippine birds. He collected extensively throughout the Archipelago and published the results of his field experiences. As in the case of other naturalists, his interest was not limited to birds. Of the numerous Philippine plants and animals that first passed through his hands before becoming known to science many bear his name. The labors of McGregor in the Philippines as ornithologist are symbolized in the collection of

birds of the Philippine Bureau of Science which he had built and maintained for many years, and are largely recorded in the PHILIPPINE JOURNAL OF SCIENCE of which he was the managing editor. His MANUAL OF PHILIPPINE BIRDS is a classic among ornithological works.

McGregor was elected associate member of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1889, and in 1907 was granted a Life Fellowship. The latter honor is given only to a few distinguished ornithologists. He was also a charter member of the National Research Council of the Philippines and of many other scientific societies.

Although McGregor was of a somewhat retiring nature he was very courteous and approachable. Although a journalist by profession, he never liked publicity for himself, and many newspaper reporters were disappointed on interviewing him. He never ventured opinions where he was not certain of his facts. To his friends and colleagues he was ever a delightful companion, and the pleasant hours spent in his company will long remain in the memory of the many friends who mourn his passing.

# RICHARD C. McGREGOR'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENCE

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1903. On birds from Luzon, Mindoro, Masbate, Ticao, Cuyo, Culion, Cagayan, Sulu, and Palawan. Manila, Bureau of Printing. Bulletin of the Philippine museum No. 1.

1904. Birds from Benguet Province, Luzon, and from the islands of Lubang, Mindoro, Cuyo, and Cagayancillo. Manila, Bureau of Printing. Bulletin of the Philippine museum No. 3.

1904. The birds of Calayan and Fuga, Babuyan group. Manila, Bureau of Printing. Bulletin of the Philippine museum No. 4.

1905. Birds from the islands of Romblon, Sibuyan, and Cresta de Gallo, II. Further notes on birds from Ticao, Cuyo, Culion, Calayan, Lubang, and Luzon. Manila, Bureau of Printing. Philippine Islands Bureau of Government Laboratories. Publication No. 25.

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1906. Notes on four birds from Luzon and on a species of doubtful occurrence in the Philippines. Philippine Journal of Science 1: 765–766.

1906. Notes on a collection of birds from Banton. Philippine Journal of Science 1: 768–770.

1906. Notes on a collection of birds from the Island of Tablas. Philippine Journal of Science 1: 771–777. Plates.

1906. Notes on a collection of birds from Palawan Island. Philippine Journal of Science 1: 903–908.

1907. Notes on a collection of birds from the Island of Basilan with descriptions of three new species. Philippine Journal of Science § A 2: 279–291.

1907. The occurrence of Blyth's wattled lapwing and the Scaup duck in the Philippine Islands. Philippine Journal of Science § A 2: 295.

1907. Notes on a bird unrecorded from Mindanao. Philippine Journal of Science § A 2: 296.

1907. Notes on specimens of the monkey-eating eagle (Pithecophaga jefferyi) Grant from Mindanao and Luzon. Philippine Journal of Science § A 2: 297.

1907. Notes on birds collected in Cebu. Philippine Journal of Science § A 2: 298–309. Tables.

1907. Birds observed in Bantayan Island, Province of Cebu. Philippine Journal of Science § A 2: 310–314.

1907. The birds of Bohol. Philippine Journal of Science § A 2: 315–335. Plate.

1907. The birds of Batan, Camiguin, Y'ami, and Babuyan Claro, islands north of Luzon. Philippine Journal of Science § A 2: 337–351.

1908–1910. Philippine ornithological literature. Philippine Journal of Science § A 3: 285–292; § A 4: 79–86; 1910, § D 5: 203–209.

1909. A collection of birds from northern Mindanao. Philippine Journal of Science § A 4: 67–77.

1910. Birds collected in the Island of Polillo, Philippine Islands. Philippine Journal of Science § D 5: 103–114. Table.

1910. Birds from Pauai and Mount Pulog, subprovince of Benguet, Luzon. Philippine Journal of Science § D 5: 135–138.

1910. Additional notes on birds from Northern Mindanao, Philippine Islands. Philippine Journal of Science § D 5: 197.

1910. Notes on the migration of the tic-wee buzzard in the Philippine Islands. Philippine Journal of Science § D 5: 199–201. Plate.

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1921. Birds of Antique Province, Panay, Philippine Islands. Philippine Journal of Science 18: 537–555. Maps.

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1936. Birds new and rare in the Philippines, by R. C. McGregor and Canuto G. Manuel. Philippine Journal of Science 59: 317–326.

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1926. Philippine sea birds. Philippine Education magazine 23: 144–145. Illus.

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1927. Philippine fully-webbed swimming birds. Philippine Education magazine 23: 482–483, 518–519. Illus.

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